

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A communication system responsive to internet user access requests to an intranet-based web server across a firewall, comprising:
  - a listener on said internet side of said firewall responsive to said access requests
  - 5 from said internet user, and
  - a publisher on said intranet side of said firewall having access to said web server, maintaining a communication link with said listener.
2. A communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein said publisher
- 10 maintains an open hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) or HTTP layer over the secure socket layer (HTTPS) connection with said listener.
3. A communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein said listener
- maintains an HTTP or HTTP layered over the secure socket layer (HTTPS) Internet
- 15 connection.
4. A communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein said listener embeds said access requests within responses to communication requests from said publisher.
- 20 5. A communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein said listener embeds requests of its own within responses to communication requests from said publisher.
6. A method of communicating intranet services access requests from an
- 25 internet user across a fire wall to an intranet-based web service, including:
  - maintaining a communication link between an intranet publisher and said web server;
  - maintaining a communication link between an internet listener and said internet user; and
  - 30 maintaining a communication link between said publisher and said listener.

7. The communication method of claim 6 using an HTTP or HTTP layered over the secure socket layer (HTTPS) connection between said publisher and said listener.

5 8. The communication method of claim 6 in which said listener maintains an HTTP or HTTPS internet connection.

9. The communication method of claim 6 embedding said internet user access requests within responses to communication requests from said publisher.

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10. A method of communicating intranet services access requests from a requesting internet user, across a fire wall, to an intranet-based service, including:  
receiving communication requests from the intranet side of a firewall;  
receiving said access request from said internet user;  
15 encapsulating said access request in a response message;  
sending said response message in response to said communication request;  
forwarding said response message to an intranet-based web service;  
forwarding outward bound intranet-based web service responses across a firewall;  
and  
20 forwarding said intranet-based web service responses to said requesting internet user.

11. The communication method of claim 9 and further, wherein said access request is assigned a transaction ID.

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12. The communication method of claim 10 and further, wherein said web service response is forwarded to said internet user based on said transaction ID.

13. The communication method of claim 9 and further, wherein said access  
30 request fails if said communication request has not been received within a timeout period.

14. The communication method of claim 9 and further, wherein said communication request is an HTTP wait request.

5 15. The communication method of claim 9 and further, wherein said access request is over an HTTP or HTTPS connection.

16. The communication method of claim 9 and further, wherein said communication request is over an HTTP connection.